Exhibit 3

Add Company Profiles to

your personal Watchlist and

get notified when new

articles are posted here.

Log in | Why register?

Business Directory

Enter keyword(s)





Daily News Wires

Company News **Event News** Education Energy, Oil and Gas **Executive Motoring** Finance and Economy Healthcare Media and Advertising Telco, Internet and IT Travel and Aviation Personal Finance Real Estate Retail and Leisure

Video Content 武

Features and Events Industry Talk FlipCast (BETA)

Financial Markets

Arab Capital Markets Dr. Marc Faber **Equity Research HSBC Currency Weekly** Northern Levant Offshore Investment Syria Business Review

News & Comment

SCB Economic Update **Dubai Property Editorial Column** German Trade Review News Feature CNNArabic.com

Business Extra

Appointments Business Features E-Business **Enterprise Solutions Executive Interview** Financial Planning Focus on CRM Working & Living Abroad

Industry Focus

6th Sense of Business **Arabian Environment** Disaster Recovery **Executive Education** HR and Training Leadership Linux Mobile World

Additional Services

AME Info Toolbar **Business Intelligence Currency Converter** Current World Time



Company Profiles

- With Peter J. Cooper, Editor-in-Chief

Index: Company Profiles

Browse articles in this category:

Previous article

Next article >>>

🛠 options

Advanced Search

The news

Search our database of 183,172 companies from 14 Middle East countries.

News and Articles

Enter keyword(s)

Advanced Search Most Read Articles Latest Articles Posted

Newsletter Subscription Submit Press Releases

Exhibitions & Events

Enter keyword(s)

Advanced Search

Search our database of 1,235 events from 14 Middle East countries.

Advertisement



Watch ☐ Save ☑ E-mail ☐ Print

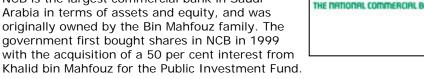
National Commercial Bank

Wednesday, January 22 - 2003 at 15:23

The recent increase in the state shareholding in National Commercial Bank from 50 to 80 per cent might seem to fly in the face of privatization.

But nothing could be further from the truth, as the share acquisition marks an acceleration of plans for an initial public offering.

NCB is the largest commercial bank in Saudi Arabia in terms of assets and equity, and was originally owned by the Bin Mahfouz family. The government first bought shares in NCB in 1999 with the acquisition of a 50 per cent interest from



The main obstacle to an IPO at NCB has been the requirement for at least two years of financial statements, and NCB has not published its full figures since 1998.

With the PIF now in the driving seat the NCB is expected to produce audited figures within the next few months. That would allow the government to move ahead with plans for an IPO for the only unlisted bank in the kingdom.

According to MEED around \$1.8 billion was paid for the 30 per cent stake by the PIF, putting a value of \$6 billion on NCB. Doubtless there would be great international interest in buying into this bank if the government was to allow foreign ownership.

Since the PIF bought into NCB in 1999 the management and ownership of the bank have been completely separate, and a detailed review of the loan portfolio has been completed. Massive one-hit provisions of \$1.3 billion for 1999 are believed to have cleaned up the loan book and to have been followed by smaller amounts in subsequent years.

Within the bank there has been a change of management culture and a shift towards creating a premium retail bank, albeit one with a strong Islamic flavour. And the IT department has been completely modernized.

Indeed, the prospectus for the IPO may prove to hold some welcome surprises for prospective shareholders. All the signs are that the NCB has modernized its structure from top to bottom and rebuilt its balance sheet. But it would still be nice to see the figures.

Discussion Forum

E-mail Alerts

Networking Event

Property Inquiry

Online Parcel Tracking

RSS Newsfeed MIII

Wireless Services

Weather Forecast

Country Guides »

Bahrain Oman Egypt Palestine Iran Qatar Iraq Saudi Arabia Jordan Syria Kuwait UAE Lebanon Yemen

Also consider reading:

- National Car Rental
- **HSBC Amanah Finance**
- **Dubai International Financial Centre**
- Canon Middle East
- Avaya
- National/Panasonic
- **Emaar Properties**
- **Tabreed** =
- Qatar Telecom (Q-Tel)
- Abu Dhabi Shipbuilding Company



With Peter J. Cooper, Editor-in-Chief

Wednesday, January 22 - 2003 at 15:23 UAE local time (GMT+4)

Replication or redistribution in whole or in part is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of AME Info FZ LLC.

Index: Company Profiles



Browse articles in this category:



Next article >>>



People who read this article also read:

- CREDAI's Indian Real Estate and Housing Finance Exhibition begins December 12th
- NCB, next big Saudi privatization?
- War fears drag down the US dollar
- Al Sham launches its second ship

Today's most read articles:

- Dubai is the new Monaco
- MTC-Vodafone super data GSM
- UAE negative list for cards
- Westside, Dubai Marina, 40pc sold
- Yukos halts China oil supplies

Most read articles the past week:

- New Dubai property website
- Comparing Dubai and UK house prices
- Dubai's first real estate and lifestyle portal now online at dubaipropertycentre.com
- Dubai property market booms
- Marina Quays now on sale

Disclaimer:

The information comprised in this section is not, nor is it held out to be, a solicitation of any person to take any form of investment decision.



Best cross product platform in the market ■ Winner of the 2003 and 2004 EUROMONEY

and FX WEEK awards More





Experience fine dining prepared by our 5-star onboard chefs

